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Chairman: Mr. Hachani ..... (Tunisia)

Contents

Agenda item 110: Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Agenda item 106: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*)

Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 110: Human rights questions (A/53/58, 74, 75, A/53/77-S/1998/171, A/53/79, 80, A/53/94-S/1998/309, A/53/99-S/1998/344, A/53/131-S/1998/435, A/53/165-S/1998/601, A/53/167, 203, A/53/205-S/1998/711, A/53/214, 215, A/53/225-S/1998/747, A/53/343, 404, 425, 489, 493, 494 and 497; A/C.3/53/4, 5, 7 and 9)

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments (A/53/40 (Volumes I and II), A/53/44, A/53/72-S/1998/156, A/53/95-S/1998/311, A/53/118, 125, 230, 253, 283, 339, 432 and 469)

1. **Mrs. Stamatopoulou-Robbins** (Deputy Director, New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), introducing the item, said that efforts were continuing in order to enhance the effectiveness of the human rights treaty bodies, particularly through the development of a more focused system of State reporting and better follow-up to the recommendations addressed by treaty bodies to reporting States.

2. The report of the Human Rights Committee was contained in document A/53/40 (Volumes I and II). Currently, there were 140 States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and 92 and 33 States parties, respectively, to the first and second Optional Protocols to the Covenant. During the year under review, the Committee had examined initial and periodic reports of 16 States parties; it had adopted a general comment on the continuity of obligations of State parties under the Covenant, and had begun consideration of general comments on gender equality and freedom of movement. The Committee had examined a total of 33 cases under the first Optional Protocol, adopting views on 30 and declaring 3 cases inadmissible. A further 15 communications had been declared admissible and were pending examination. At the Eighteenth Meeting of State Parties to the Covenant, two new members had been elected to the Committee and seven re-elected.

3. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had considered 12 reports by 10 States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It had also considered the status of implementation of the Covenant by one non-reporting State. It had adopted two important statements: the first drew attention to the need to ensure that globalization did not adversely affect the enjoyment of economic and social rights and urged the international financial institutions to work with Governments to that end; the second recommended that special attention should be given to the incorporation of economic, social and cultural rights in the United Nations development-assistance framework. As to the draft optional protocol to the Covenant, the Commission on Human Rights had invited States parties to submit their views, which it would consider at its next session in 1999.

4. With regard to the other principal human rights instruments, she said that 127 and 108 States, respectively, had ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had been ratified or acceded to by only nine States since its adoption by the General Assembly in 1990 and thus had not yet entered into force.

5. The report of the Committee against Torture was contained in document A/53/44. During the year under review, the Committee had considered reports by 16 States parties, as well as 70 individual communications submitted under article 22 of the Convention. The Committee's May 1998 session had been extended by one week because of its increasing workload. In its report, the Committee requested that the duration of its spring sessions should be increased to three weeks on a regular basis. The report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was contained in document A/53/283.

6. Turning to the reports of the ninth and tenth meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, contained in documents A/53/125 and A/53/432, respectively, she said that those meetings had provided an opportunity for dialogue with representatives of States parties concerning a number of issues, including the staffing situation, the problem of overdue reports, the backlog of States parties' reports and communications awaiting examination, and the need to ensure that recommendations by treaty bodies were given effect. It was agreed that the work of the treaty bodies constituted a core function of the United Nations, and, as such, must be adequately funded from the Organization's regular budget, although voluntary funding should be sought in order to address immediately the problem of inadequate human resources. In that connection, the chairpersons had examined a draft global plan of action to strengthen the servicing of the treaty bodies.

7. **Mr. Winnick** (United States of America) said that torture was an egregious violation of human rights and an appalling affront to the inherent dignity of the individual.

Tyranny could survive only on the basis of fear, and it was fear that torture sought to instil. Torture had a devastating impact on its victims' physical and psychological well-being. Over the past 15 years, treatment centres for victims of torture had been established around the world, and there were currently 200 treatment centres in more than 50 countries. The centres also provided non-political medical documentation of the practice of torture in specific countries. Evidence gathered was used by such bodies as the Committee against Torture, by the Special Rapporteur on torture and in bilateral diplomatic efforts.

8. Torture treatment centres also identified with the victims' aspirations for democracy and human rights, helping to strengthen the resolve of citizens to build a society based on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Centre for Victims of Torture, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, had treated more than 600 victims and currently had a caseload of about 150 clients, who were served by a full range of health professionals. Many of the centre's clients had become contributing members of their communities.

9. His country, through the Torture Victims' Relief Act, provided assistance and funding for torture victims residing in the United States and abroad and had given $3 million in contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, which provided critical support to treatment centres around the world. Fewer than 25 States had contributed to the Voluntary Fund. In 1998, it had barely more than $4 million to fund 124 projects in about 50 countries, whereas its need for funds in 1998 had been estimated at nearly $28 million. His delegation was therefore eager to see the circle of partners in that endeavour expand.

10. **Mr. Theuermann** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and in addition, Liechtenstein, said that the universal ratification of United Nations human rights treaties was essential for ensuring the global protection of human rights. The European Union welcomed the increased number of ratifications of human rights treaties and called upon all States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the core international human rights instruments to achieve the goal of universal ratification within the next five years. In that context, the Union welcomed China's initiation of the process of ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its recent signature of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and looked forward to its speedy ratification and subsequent implementation of both instruments.

11. He expressed concern about the relatively low number of ratifications of the Convention against Torture. The unanimous condemnation of torture must be followed swiftly by dramatic progress in the ratification of that crucial instrument.

12. The European Union wished to stress that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remained a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. International law did not permit a State that had ratified or acceded to the Covenant to denounce it or withdraw from it without the consent of all States parties. The Covenant did not provide for denunciation, and there was no intention on the part of the international community to establish such a possibility. The Union was also seriously concerned about the recent withdrawals from the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and urged the Governments concerned to reconsider those decisions.

13. The European Union was concerned about the rising number of impermissible or otherwise unacceptable reservations to human rights treaties. States should formulate any reservations deemed necessary as precisely and narrowly as possible and ensure that no reservation was incompatible with the purpose of the relevant treaty. The Union remained particularly worried about the large number of reservations to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and deplored the fact that very few reservations had been modified or withdrawn.

14. Once ratified, human rights treaties required continuous efforts to ensure respect for the human rights standards set forth in them. Governments had the prime responsibility to incorporate those standards and ensure the full enjoyment of international human rights. The Union welcomed the important role played by non-governmental organizations throughout the world in the implementation of all human rights instruments.

15. As part of their treaty obligations, States parties must cooperate with the treaty bodies that monitored implementation. The central purpose of the treaty regime was to facilitate the implementation of universal standards at the national level. He welcomed the various efforts under way to reform the work of United Nations treaty bodies in order to enhance their ability to assess the performance of States parties and formulate recommendations for further improvements. The European Union called on the treaty bodies to pursue further reforms in order to reduce unnecessary burdens on States parties and ensure adequate and timely reporting. He called for better integration of the

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women into the United Nations human rights treaty system and welcomed the results achieved at the meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies.

16. The Union remained concerned over the serious difficulties with regard to the reporting procedures under international human rights treaties. The great number of overdue reports and the backlog in the examination of reports threatened the effectiveness of the system. In cases of long-overdue reports, the treaty bodies should consider a State's compliance with its obligations in the absence of a report. More specific and focused recommendations would allow for better implementation. The European Union welcomed the leadership role of UNICEF in considering human rights instruments as a basis for its work. The Union noted with satisfaction the contributions of specialized agencies to the work of the treaty bodies and encouraged those bodies, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the specialized agencies to intensify that cooperation. In that context, he highlighted the role of the specialized agencies under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

17. The provisions of the treaties themselves should be given precedence in the process of nominating and electing members of the treaty bodies. Only candidates who were prepared to devote sufficient time to the work involved should be nominated. Individual complaint procedures were another important tool for ensuring that States parties complied with their obligations. The Union called upon States to consider accepting the existing complaint procedures set forth in the various treaties and protocols. While welcoming the increasing use of communication procedures, he was concerned at the delay in the examination of the large number of communications pending before the treaty bodies. The United Nations system should expand its support for that core element of the human rights system and allocate the necessary resources.

18. The European Union appreciated the progress made by the working group on the elaboration of an optional protocol to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and hoped that that work could be successfully completed the following year. It also welcomed the developments that had taken place in recent years in the elaboration of other draft protocols to various human rights treaties. The Union regretted, however, that it had not been possible to make more progress at the negotiations to elaborate a draft protocol to the Convention against Torture, and encouraged the working group to intensify its efforts to complete work in the near future.

19. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that strengthening the human rights treaty bodies was an important way to ensure the implementation of human rights instruments. All treaty bodies must have adequate resources to be able to improve the staffing situation and address the backlog of work. The proposed global plan of action to enhance the resources available to those bodies should address the particular needs of treaty bodies that did not benefit from a treaty-specific plan of action. The High Commissioner for Human Rights should ensure that the launching of the global plan of action was given priority and that the necessary resources were made available. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should receive enough resources to carry out its responsibilities, particularly with regard to the backlog of reports submitted by States parties. The enjoyment of human rights by women should be monitored closely by each treaty body within the purview of its mandate.

20. In order to improve their work, the treaty bodies should reduce lengthy periodic reports, avoid duplication, and eliminate long delays between their submission and consideration. Delays of up to three years must not be accepted as normal. Treaty bodies could also benefit from cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and regional organizations. The special rapporteurs and representatives contributed very significantly to the promotion and protection of human rights. An institutional arrangement between them and the treaty bodies would enable the latter to benefit from the observations and findings of the experts. The information gathered by grass-roots activists could enrich their work and result in better dissemination of information on it.

21. The High Commissioner for Human Rights should actively support the global campaign to promote the ratification and entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

22. **Mr. Xie Bohua** (China) said that human rights instruments must be implemented in a practical way through legal and administrative measures. States parties had the right and obligation to take such measures in the light of their specific conditions and could make reservations in accordance with their situation. The recommendations of treaty-monitoring bodies were not legally binding. The view that the treaty bodies determined the admissibility of reservations had no legal basis.

23. The treaty bodies should work within their mandates and increase their efficiency. They should ensure better coordination of their work to avoid duplication and thereby

reduce the burden on States parties. With regard to the implementation of provisions that were common to several treaties, States parties could submit a comprehensive report in a core document.

24. International human rights activities should be carried out through international cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect. States parties and human rights treaty bodies should strictly adhere to the provisions of the legal instruments in question, fulfil their respective responsibilities and conduct a dialogue based on equality and mutual respect.

25. China had consistently placed a high value on the international human rights instruments. To date, it had ratified or acceded to 17 international human rights conventions, which amply demonstrated its firm determination to promote human rights. In the future, China would continue to enhance its cooperation with the United Nations with a view to ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

26. **Mr. Reyes Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the focus in the work of the various treaty bodies should be cooperative rather than punitive because dialogue was the only way to ensure that the bodies worked effectively. In that connection, Cuba was concerned by a number of practices, such as considering reports from States parties in the absence of the State party in question, that had crept into the work of the treaty bodies.

27. The legal basis for their work lay in the texts of the relevant instruments, and Cuba was therefore concerned by the possibility of treaty bodies' presuming to practice law by overstepping the bounds of their mandates.

28. Cuba was concerned that, of the six treaty bodies, almost half the membership of three – the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee – were from the Western European group of States. Cuba therefore recommended that a quota system should be put in place to ensure a balance in representation between the regions and also between the sexes.

29. Cuba was concerned also about the imbalance in the use of languages, and proposed that multilingualism should be respected in the work of the treaty bodies.

30. Cuba believed that, for their sources of information, the treaty bodies should respect the principle that the basic documents should be the reports submitted by the States parties. Any additional information submitted to treaty bodies should at the least be transmitted to the State party in question for its consideration.

31. Cuba reiterated the concern it had frequently expressed about the so-called cooperation and coordination between the Commission on Human Rights and the treaty bodies, believing that such "cooperation and coordination" would in practice contribute only to a politicization of the treaty bodies' work and, in the final analysis, jeopardize their credibility. The mandate of the Commission on Human Rights on the one hand and the mandates of the treaty bodies on the other were inherently different: the authority of the treaty bodies came from the States parties, whereas the Commission on Human Rights received its mandate from the General Assembly; in other words, in most cases its mandate was negotiated in the closed circle of the so-called traditional co-sponsors, a process which was, moreover, neither transparent nor participatory.

32. Cuba noted that – although they had done so only in isolated cases so far – the treaty bodies had arrogated to themselves the right to interpret the scope and nature of reservations by States parties, to the extent even of finding that certain reservations were not legitimate. All such actions by treaty bodies were unacceptable.

33. Cuba believed, in connection with the periodic meetings between the chairmen of the treaty bodies, that in 1999 the chairman/rapporteur of those meetings should be invited to submit the report on those meetings in person to the Third Committee, and that the Third Committee should take enough time to discuss the conclusions and recommendations: the meetings were becoming more and more important to the operation of the treaty bodies.

34. Cuba believed that ratification of human rights treaties should be universal and that all human rights treaties should be so ratified. That being the case, Cuba did not accept the so-called core-instrument concept: it was restrictive in that it made central just six of the human rights instruments in force.

35. Cuba was concerned that, whereas some human rights treaties provided for links between the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies, the so-called rights-based approach in the work of the United Nations agencies was expanding the scope of those links. The links had originally been conceived largely in terms of provision of reports by the United Nations agencies to the treaty bodies. Thus, the so-called rights-based approach was contributing to a reordering of priorities in the work of the agencies and would in the final analysis impose additional obligations on the developing countries without any corresponding increase in resources or other guarantees for them.

36. Cuba welcomed the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in developing consultations

with various academic institutions concerning proposals to review the operation of the treaty bodies. However, it believed that the process should be broad-based, participatory and transparent, and that it should include academic institutions and representatives not just of the developed countries but also of the developing countries.

37. **Mr. Okoudjou** (Benin) expressed his delegation's full support for the statement made on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

38. He recalled that, when the founding fathers of the United Nations had included human rights in the Charter, they had been motivated by the lessons of fascism and the massive violations of human rights – true crimes against humanity – that fascism had entailed; also, in adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international community had not only wanted to have all States recognize those inherent rights and make them international, it had also wanted more than anything to banish the spectre of the murderous conflicts that had twice had such baleful consequences for humankind.

39. Failure to respect human rights could also lead to conflict, as the many conflicts and hotbeds of tension around the globe proved. The relevant reports of the Secretary-General pointed to the same conclusion. The genocidal conflicts, both internal and external, that were currently taking place were largely attributable to religious fundamentalism and racial, ethnic and social discrimination, and in response the international community must protect human rights by implementing the relevant international conventions and plans of action.

40. Democratization of political power and good governance were effective ways of protecting and promoting human rights. Benin was taking that path, which was fruitful but difficult: in addition to the fundamental rights that Benin had been able to afford its citizens as a result, a true human rights culture was taking shape there in conformity with the Vienna Programme of Action.

41. The Member States could help the United Nations achieve its objectives if, in international solidarity underpinned by the necessary political will, they signed and implemented the relevant United Nations conventions. Benin was therefore grateful to all its partners in development for the technical and financial assistance that was helping to promote human rights and democracy there.

42. Economic growth and social development were necessary if people were to eat and have health care, housing and clothes. It was all very well to guarantee political and civil liberties, equality before the law and equality between men and women in constitutions and back them up with legislation, but rights and freedoms could not be exercised in a situation of poverty, ignorance and disease. Benin therefore welcomed the advance in the international community's recognition of the right to development as an inalienable human right.

43. Benin supported the increasing efforts of the United Nations to implement a rights-based approach to development: UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations system as a whole were taking into consideration not only human needs or the needs of development but also the obligation to respect human rights.

44. In the struggle to eliminate poverty or to combat desertification, drug trafficking or international terrorism and in the various programmes to maintain and consolidate peace, the common factor was the protection and development of the individual. Thus, the real battle was to promote and protect human rights, which were the quintessence of the values through which people affirmed, together, that they were one human community.

45. **Mr. Ndjemba Endezoumou** (Cameroon) said that most States, including Cameroon, had now ratified or acceded to the various relevant international instruments and were working to protect and promote the rights that flowed from them. However, despite the progress made, the situation still gave rise to concern: the hotbeds of tension around the world led to torture, summary executions, genocide and all kinds of atrocities that were not just violations but negations of fundamental human rights. Thus, the international community should do more to promote and protect human rights, and to that end the right to development should receive the same sustained attention given to civil, political, social and cultural rights, since they were interdependent and inextricably linked.

46. The United Nations, too, should continue to promote the right to development, as that right ensured prosperity: poverty was still a factor for instability and fragility in the developing countries and must be attacked if a climate was to be created that put human dignity on a secure footing.

47. He recalled that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, in his address to the General Assembly on 30 September 1998, had emphasized that Cameroon had made great progress in human rights through democratizing its institutions in order to strengthen the rule of law. Cameroon had done so through new legislation that did away with all oppressive laws and restored individual and collective freedoms, including freedom of opinion, association and assembly – Cameroon currently had a number of political

parties, of which the seven largest were represented in Parliament following free, democratic and transparent elections, and many independent newspapers; censorship and political prisons had been abolished and legislation had been passed to improve protection of the interests of workers and the most vulnerable members of society. Also, in 1996 the Government had amended the Constitution to provide for new democratic institutions, to reaffirm that all citizens were equal before the law and to guarantee protection for minorities and security of the person.

48. The combined effect of those measures was a tranquil political and social climate, the reason why Cameroon had remained peaceful and stable in a region with several hotbeds of serious tension.

49. He expressed regret that, in the territorial dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria, the Nigerian authorities were unwilling to abide by the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Protocols. He called on them to do so by authorizing the International Red Cross to visit the Cameroonian prisoners of war being held by Nigeria in the same way that Cameroon authorized the Red Cross to visit its Nigerian prisoners. He reaffirmed Cameroon's desire for a peaceful settlement to the dispute; that desire was the reason why it had taken the dispute to the International Court of Justice. In so doing, Cameroon had no desire for hegemony and had always respected its neighbours' territorial integrity, as it believed that the right to peace was an integral part of human rights.

50. The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provided an opportunity to lay the groundwork for future action. In that connection, Cameroon believed that the treaty bodies should be revitalized and that United Nations consultancy services should be expanded. Also, there should be greater emphasis on human rights education and on inculcating in people the culture of peace.

51. Cameroon was therefore prepared to host the subregional human rights centre that was to be established, and felt sure that the Member States would support that project.

52. **Ms. Holíková** (Czech Republic) said that the Government of the Czech Republic was concerned at the torture and ill-treatment tolerated in the police and prison systems in many countries and, like other democratic countries, supported all efforts, national, regional and international, to counter that situation, including the efforts of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to draft an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture. She therefore regretted that the working group had failed to make substantial progress.

53. The notion of an optional protocol had first arisen in the early 1980s, at the same time as the idea for the Convention itself; at that time, the totalitarian Government of the former Czechoslovakia had not welcomed the idea of preventing torture through a mechanism of independent visits and had hidden behind the principle of State sovereignty; it had tolerated the use of violence against prisoners as a way of conducting investigations. All that had changed after 1989, when the former Czechoslovakia had undergone the transition to democratic government.

54. The Government of the Czech Republic therefore believed that a mechanism allowing visits to any person or place under the jurisdiction of the State party to ascertain how investigations were being conducted – whereafter confidential reports would be drafted and follow-up recommendations would be made in cooperation with the State party concerned – would, as a preventive measure, eventually lead to a reduction in torture and ill-treatment. For that reason, among others, the Czech Republic had become a party to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; that Convention operated on the basis not of a duty on the part of States to report, but rather of investigative visits. The Czech Republic believed that adopting a similar system for the United Nations human rights instruments would promote cooperation by States with United Nations specialized agencies and monitoring bodies, satisfy both sides and improve the situation worldwide.

55. The Czech Republic supported the guiding principles of the working group on the draft optional protocol: the persons conducting investigative visits must be independent, competent and impartial; the outcomes of such visits must be confidential; and there must be constructive dialogue between the monitoring body and the State concerned. The Czech Republic supported also the principle that the reports of the monitoring body on its visits should be published. No reservations to an eventual optional protocol should be permitted in the case of those principles.

56. The working group needed much more attention from the competent United Nations bodies, and the Czech Government therefore urged the Third Committee and the General Assembly to support the work of the working group to the utmost by urging the Commission on Human Rights to complete its work with all due speed, with the sole objective of eliminating the conditions that favoured torture and ill-treatment.

Agenda item 106: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*) (A/C.3/53/L.15)

57. **Ms. Wet** (Namibia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.15 entitled "The girl child", on behalf of the sponsors announced that the following countries had joined the list of sponsors: Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Micronesia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, Ukraine and Uruguay.

58. She announced also that the text of paragraph 19 of the draft resolution should be revised to read: "*Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to pay particular attention to the human rights of the girl child;".

59. The sponsors had taken account of the discussions on the critical areas of concern to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session. Their intention was that States, international bodies and non-governmental organizations should implement in full the relevant conclusions adopted by the Commission.

Organization of work

60. **Mr. Hynes** (Canada), referring to agenda item 110 (d), asked what arrangements had been made to enable non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society to contribute to the review of the progress made in implementing the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. While they had a vital role to play, it was unclear whether they would be afforded an opportunity to express their views.

61. **Mr. Reyes Rodríguez** (Cuba) said he was concerned that, unless appropriate financial support was provided, it would not be possible for non-governmental organizations from some regions to participate.

62. **Mrs. Chigaga** (Zambia) said she agreed that it was important for the broadest possible range of non-governmental organizations to be represented. She recalled that informal consultations concerning the modalities of participation by non-governmental organizations were under way, and requested that the Bureau should inform the Committee as to the progress of those consultations.

63. **Mr. Hynes** (Canada) said he understood that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would shortly be arriving in New York. The Bureau should elicit her views on the matter. He was sure that, with her input, a satisfactory solution could be found. He proposed that the Committee should defer all discussion on the matter, until such time as the consultations between the Bureau and the High Commissioner were completed.

64. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.